



ALBERTA

TRANSPORTATION

*Office of the Minister
Deputy Government House Leader
MLA, Calgary-Hays*

October 5, 2020

AR 81764

Ms. Suzanne Oel
Reeve
Foothills County
309 Macleod Trail
PO Box 5605
High River, AB T1V 1M7

His Worship William (Bill) B. Robertson
Mayor
Town of Okotoks
PO Box 20, Station Main
5 Elizabeth Street
Okotoks, AB T1S 1K1

Dear Reeve Oel and Mayor Robertson:

Thank you for your letters requesting median closures and other measures related to highways in your area. I apologize for the delayed response.

Road safety is a top priority for Alberta Transportation, and our condolences go out to the families of those involved in the fatality that occurred on Highway 2. Particularly in light of this tragic incident, I remain committed to working collaboratively with Foothills County and the Town of Okotoks to improve safety and reduce collisions.

I understand there are safety concerns related to the intersections of Highway 2 and 306 Avenue, 338 Avenue, and 370 Avenue. All the intersections are challenging for motorists due to the high traffic volume on Highway 2, particularly for motorists making left turns to enter the highway or going straight through the intersection. However, the effects of any proposed future changes in the interim and long term need to be considered.

An interchange at Highway 2 at 338 Avenue would address the issue. The first step that must be completed for a project such as this one is a functional planning study to determine the interchange's configuration, right-of-way requirements, and costs. As with any project, Alberta Transportation will give this project due consideration as part of determining provincial priorities for construction and taking into account funding availability. One factor that could impact the interchange's priority is potential cost-sharing with municipalities on the design and construction.

I understand the Town and the County have tentatively offered to fund 50 per cent of a functional planning study. The department is in the process of determining our planning priorities for the province; department staff will be in contact with the municipalities once these priorities are confirmed. We are also committed to working with all stakeholders to move forward with any proposed changes once there is general agreement between the municipalities on the road network issues.

.../2

I am pleased both the Town of Okotoks and Foothills County support the closure of the medians on Highway 2 between Highway 547 and Highway 522. I further understand the County is requesting the closure of the west leg of 306 Avenue.

Regarding the signalization of Highway 2A at 306 Avenue, it is best if this topic is further resolved between Foothills County and Town of Okotoks before any decision is made by Alberta Transportation. In addition, further analysis is required to determine any impacts to the Highway 552 interchange from the median closures, and public information/notification to advise local residents of any proposed changes would be required prior to implementation.

Although the closure of all three medians is not on the current Provincial Construction Program and is unfunded, it is important that department staff have further discussions with the County and Town to determine the closures' impacts to local roads, implementation strategy, and public notification. I am pleased there is progress in this regard.

Please continue to work with Mr. Jerry Lau, Infrastructure Manager. Mr. Lau can be reached at 403-297-8633 or at jerry.lau@gov.ab.ca.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,



Ric McIver
Minister

cc: R.J. Sigurdson
MLA for Highwood
Jerry Lau
Infrastructure Manager, Alberta Transportation